

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 224126  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC

APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB

S/S-O :JETHYDEN

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

-----025496 191637Z /50

O 191623Z SEP 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 224126

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PBOR, MILL, MOPS, LE, IS, US, PLO

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

1. FOR CHARGE LANE: PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH BOUTROS AS  
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR  
POINTS;

-- OUR CHARGE IN TEL AVIV HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ISRAELI  
DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OVER THIS  
PAST WEEK-END. WE GAVE WEIZMAN THE RESPONSE OF BOUTROS TO  
THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS. IN THE FIRMEST TERMS, WE MADE CLEAR  
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THAT IN OUR JUDGMENT A MORE EXTENSIVE PLO WITHDRAWAL FROM  
THE SOUTH IS SIMPLY NOT ACHIEVEABLE AT THIS TIME. WE DID  
NOT, HOWEVER, INFORM THE ISRAELIS THAT THE LEBANESE MIGHT  
BE PREPARED TO SEEK A MORE EXTENSIVE PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWAL  
AT A LATER POINT. THIS IS POINT WHICH MIGHT BE MADE BY  
SECRETARY WITH DAYAN HERE FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT.  
-- OUR BASIC THRUST WITH THE ISRAELIS HAS BEEN TO URGE THAT

THEY TAKE NO ACTION THAT WOULD DERAIL OR SUBVERT THE CARRY-  
ING OUT OF THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT AND THAT THEY SHOULD  
ASSURE THE COOPERATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS TO THIS  
END.

-- THE SECRETARY WILL BE DISCUSSING THE ISSUE WITH DAYAN

IN WASHINGTON.

-- IN THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS IN ISRAEL, THE ISRAELIS  
PROPOSED AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN PLACE, UNDER WHICH THE  
CHRISTIAN MILITIAS WOULD RETAIN TERRITORY THEY HAVE JUST  
SEIZED. THE ISRAELIS HAVE ASSURED US THAT THEY WOULD  
HOLD THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN CHECK DURING SUCH A CEASE-  
FIRE SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN LEBANON AND ISRAEL ON  
FUTURE STEPS MIGHT TAKE PLACE UNDER ILMAC AUSPICES.

-- WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR THE  
LEBANESE TO SECURE PLO ACCEPTANCE OF AN UNCONDITIONAL  
CEASEFIRE WITH THE PRESENT STATUS QUO, WE BELIEVE THAT  
LEBANON SHOULD GIVE THE MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE  
IDEA. IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY APPARENT TO US THAT WHAT-  
EVER ISRAELI ASSURANCES WE MIGHT OBTAIN WITH REGARD TO  
THE CARRYING OUT OF THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE  
SUPPLEMENTED BY DIRECT ISRAELI/LEBANESE TALKS BEFORE RPT  
BEFORE ANY LEBANESE ARMY UNITS COULD BE INTRODUCED INTO  
THE SOUTH.

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-- (FYI. GENERAL KHOURY TOLD US HERE HE WAS EAGER FOR AND  
DETERMINED TO HAVE SUCH DIRECT TALKS. HE SAID THEY MUST  
TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE SHTAURA IMPLEMENTATION. HIS THOUGHT  
IS THAT MEETINGS MIGHT BEGIN AT THE COLONEL'S LEVEL. HE  
IS READY TO TALK TO ISRAELIS ALSO, NOW OR LATER, BUT DOES  
NOT WANT TO MAKE THIS OFFER TO THE ISRAELIS AT THIS STAGE.  
THERE ALSO APPEARS TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS RE LOCA-  
TION. KHOURY SAYS RHODES IS OUT BECAUSE OF 1948-49  
HISTORY; CYPRUS IS OUT BECAUSE ISRAELIS ARE CONCERNED  
ABOUT PLO PRESENCE THERE; HE SAID ATHENS WOULD BE  
ACCEPTABLE TO LEBANESE. END FYI.)

-- FOR THE MOMENT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PRACTICAL ALTER-  
NATIVE EXCEPT TO ARRANGE A CEASEFIRE IN PLACE. IF THE  
PALESTINIANS APPLY MILITARY PRESSURE TO TRY TO REGAIN THE  
TERRITORY THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS SEIZED, IT APPEARS LIKELY  
TO US THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL PROVIDE EXTENSIVE SUPPORT TO  
THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS DESPITE OUR URGINGS THAT THERE BE  
NO MILITARY ESCALATION. THE SITUATION IS TOO DANGEROUS  
TO LEAVE UNTENDED. WE BELIEVE THE ISRAELIS WILL HONOR A  
CEASEFIRE IN PLACE AND NEGOTIATE ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY THE

SHTAURA AGREEMENT CAN BE CARRIED OUT. FOR OUR PART, WE  
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INTERESTS ARE PROTECTED. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 224126  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:UNA/BJSHARP  
APPROVED BY:UNA/JFTEFFT  
S/S-O:HWEINLAND

-----046052 202121Z /66

O 202106Z SEP 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 224126

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 224126 ACTION BEIRUT INFO  
TEL AVIV DAMASCUS AMMAN JERUSALEM CAIRO DTD 9/19/77.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 224126

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TAGS:PBOR, MILL, MOPS, LE, IS, US, PLO

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, MILI, MOPS, LE, IS, US, PLO  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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